

The Heartbreaker

By

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Based on: A traumatizing childhood experience

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

YOUNG GIRLS, age 9, at their desks, coloring. The classroom's walls are decorated with candy hearts, cupids, and a banner that reads: HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY. Love is in the air, literally.

Each girl clutches a Valentine, eyes wandering off in space. The expression on every girl's face is one longing for the affection of her prince charming.

We close on LITTLE GIRL sitting towards the end of the row. Pink dress and ribbon in her blonde curls, she is finishing her Valentine, glitter staining her hands. She writes: FLYNN, Be Mine?

And then a MAN'S VOICE, deep and whimsical, speaks to us.

NARRATOR (V.O)

This is a story about Fiona.

Little girl finishes her card, then looks up at her creation with dreamy eyes.

NARRATOR (V.O)

This, is *NOT* Fiona.

Camera jerks from LITTLE GIRL to the adjacent desk, revealing FIONA EVERWOOD, 9. Fiona is reading a comic book with aliens on the cover, hiding half her face. She dons a dark brown bob with big round glasses and a hand-me-down flannel shirt. She looks more than out of place in this world full of hearts.

NARRATOR (V.O)

She is a girl that does not believe in true love.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

YOUNG FIONA, about age 6 sits on her bed cast in a blue glow, eyes glued to the television. Her walls are covered with sports posters. Action figures, not Barbie Dolls, litter the floor.

NARRATOR (V.O)

This belief stemmed from an early exposure to 80s slasher films and classic British Tragedies.

Turn to the TV and we see the end scene from the 1960s version of *Romeo and Juliet*, where Romeo and Juliet commit suicide.

(CONTINUED)

From a distance we hear sounds of parents yelling. Fiona's ears perk up, and walks to the opening in her doorway. Over the banister of the hallway, we see FIONA'S PARENTS fighting, her father swiping an entire shelf of family portraits to the floor.

NARRATOR (V.O)

Fiona learned from a young age that misery, more than anything else in the world, loved company.

Fiona crawls back to her room, head down and picks up the remote to her TV. She turns the volume all the way up.

INT. CLASSROOM - SAME

Fiona reads her comic book. A shadow is cast over her, and we follow her eyes from the book and are met with the gaze of MRS. ROGAN, 45, holding a basket filled with cards. She is the sweet grade school teacher every child would kill to have.

MRS. ROGAN

Fiona, where is your Valentine?

Fiona opens her mouth to speak but is interrupted by FLYNN MITCHEL, 9, strutting through the doors of the classroom. For a young kid, Flynn looks like he is dressed for the junior prom. He is every parent's dream, the object of every girl's affection, and Fiona's worst nightmare.

NARRATOR

This, is Flynn. Flynn did not share Fiona's belief.

INT DINING ROOM TABLE - EVENING

A large family sits eating what seems to be Christmas dinner in a elaborately decorated home. They are loud, expressive, and chaotic. Flynn sits in between his TWO TEENAGE BROTHERS, clearly overshadowed by their size and sports-superstar mentality.

NARRATOR (V.O)

Born the youngest of six brothers and sisters, Flynn realized the only way he could ever get the attention he craved...

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Flynn walks up to a YOUNG GIRL sitting on a swing and hands her a flower. The girl's face lights up in awe.

NARRATOR (V.O)  
...was with the ladies.

INT. CLASSROOM - SAME

Flynn saunters past the desks of girls, eyes lingering on Fiona. She quickly looks down. Mrs. Rogan clears her throat.

MRS. ROGAN  
Fiona sweetheart, did you make a card?

FIONA  
No, Mrs. Rogan.

MRS. ROGAN  
And why not sweetheart? Valentine's day is tomorrow! Don't you have a special someone you'd like to give it to?

FIONA  
No thank you. I'm not too good at arts and crafts.

Fiona looks back down at her comic book, clearly uninterested in her teacher. Concerned, Mrs. Rogan crouches down to Fiona's eye level.

MRS. ROGAN  
Are you sure? Not even someone at home? I know someone would love your Valentine!

FIONA  
No, Mrs. Rogan. That's just stupid. My dad says Valentine's day is a sad way to boost our economy.

MRS. ROGAN  
Hmm...honey please don't talk like th--

She suddenly gets distracted by something out of shot

(CONTINUED)

MRS. ROGAN

(cont)

Christian do not throw the glitter!  
Oh...my...honey come back here!

Mrs. Rogan looks down at Fiona, puzzled by this precocious, yet negative child. She scurries away after another child, leaving Fiona, in a room full of children, completely alone.

On the opposite side of the room, Flynn is swarmed by two blonde girls. But as we follow his eye...it lands straight on Fiona.

NARRATOR (V.O)

It is natural for most children to fear a holiday like Halloween. But Fiona Everwood...was not like most children. For Fiona, Valentine's day was the most frightening holiday of them all. Unlike other girls who feared the dark, or spiders...Fiona feared that one can, and will, die of a broken heart.

INT FOYER - DUSK

The room is dark, cold. Fiona's FATHER is leaning against the BIG WINDOW in the front of the house. It's as if he is longing for someone, something. Rain beats against the glass. In his hands, is a bottle of scotch.

FIONA (O.S)

Daddy...? What's wrong?

Standing in the doorway, is 6 year old Fiona and her GRANDMOTHER. Her father tries to look at his daughter but he can't. Her grandmother puts her arm on Fiona's shoulder, pulling her into the kitchen. Fiona has already seen too much.

FIONA

Why isn't she coming back? Doesn't she love me?

GRANDMA

Babygirl, sometimes bad things happen to families. Your mother loved you very, very much. But she's gone now.

(CONTINUED)

FIONA  
Why? What happened to her?

GRANDMA  
She had a broken heart.

FIONA  
(welling up in tears)  
That can happen??

Grandma goes over and picks up Fiona, cradling her into her arms.

GRANDMA  
In this life...people get hurt.

FIONA  
Like sick?

GRANDMA  
Yes...kind of like that

FIONA  
I don't want to get hurt Nanna.

GRANDMA  
Oh, my little Fiona, you listen to me. Never give up on love, even if it kills you.

NARRATOR (V.O)  
You see, from the surface, Fiona's family seemed...utterly normal

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

Fiona's living room. The sounds of plates breaking in the background. We FREEZE on FAMILY PORTRAIT on shelf.  
(SUBTITLES will begin to show up to reveal the Narrator's words).

NARRATOR (V.O)  
Her father, a Physician.

Title reveals: Dentist. Age 42, good health

NARRATOR (V.O)  
Her mother, a Businesswoman.

Title reveals: Accountant. Age 40, exceptional health.

(CONTINUED)

NARRATOR (V.O)  
Both of upper-middle class status.  
Both seemingly happy...

RESUME. A man's forearm comes crashing into the Photoframe. Our happy family portrait falls to the ground, and shatters before our eyes.

NARRATOR (V.O)  
...except they weren't.

INT. LOCKERS - SAME AS BEFORE

The bell for recess rings, followed by a eager stampede of children to their lockers. Fiona opens up her locker and grabs a puffy navy coat. As she shuts the locker, Flynn is revealed standing beside her. Fiona jumps. She looks like she just saw a ghost...or worse.

Fiona stands at her locker, awkwardly staring into Flynn's dreamy eyes.

NARRATOR (V.O)  
There is a funny thing about  
Valentine's day. Sometimes when all  
you fear is getting your heart  
broken, you can become the heart  
breaker...without even trying.

FIONA  
Um...hi Flynn. What do you want?

FLYNN  
Hello Fiona. How are you today? By  
the way you look great, your shirt  
really brings out the beauty in  
your eyes. Brown is your color!

FIONA  
What are you talking about?

Flynn, trying to hide his nerves, starts to swing his lunch box. There is a picture of THE INCREDIBLE HULK on the cover.

FIONA  
Woa, is that the Hulk on your lunch  
box? Dude that one is sooo cool!

FLYNN  
Wait you like the Hulk?

(CONTINUED)

FIONA

Obviously. Like he has the funniest power. If I were like him, I'd be green all the time!

FLYNN

You know, I saw you reading a comic book in class. Don't girls only like talking about their babies names or putting on makeup and weird stuff like that?

FIONA

No, you don't have to be a *boy* to like comic books and superheroes! Boys always think they are better than girls. You know my older cousin let me watch Iron Man with him, it was PG 13 and everything. It was WAY cooler than like...Tangled.

FLYNN

Wow that's...amazing. I wanted to see that one.

FIONA

You wanted to see Tangled?

FLYNN

No no I meant...the Hulk.

FIONA

Right.

Flynn watches Fiona talk like she is the coolest girl in the history of mankind. Fiona, oblivious and uninterested, begins to walk down the hall to recess. Flynn hurries after her

FLYNN

So, Fiona, I have a question

FIONA

Uh huh?

FLYNN

Did it hurt?

FIONA

Did what hurt?



FLYNN

You know, when you fell from heaven?

FIONA

I mean, I fell riding my bike last week? It doesn't hurt anymore though.

FLYNN

No, I mean, fall from heaven. Like, an angel. You're an angel.

FIONA

Because I'm...well behaved? My Nanna would *not* agree with you.

FLYNN

No! You're like the coolest girl in class.

FIONA

I don't even like the other girls in our class. They like Disney and stuff.

FLYNN

Exactly. You're perfect. Fiona...since it is Valentine's day tomorrow--

FIONA

Ugh why is everyone so crazy about this holiday! You don't get good presents or candy

FLYNN

I know, but Valentine's day is about love..

FIONA

Ew what are you saying! Flynn, I thought you were being my friend.

FLYNN

I mean, I am but--

FIONA

Friends don't say stuff like that. Clearly you're *not* my friend. And you know what? I've bet you've never even seen a PG-13 movie!

Mrs. Rogan, with impeccable timing, interrupts the two children.

MRS. ROGAN

Flynn, Fiona, what are you two still doing here? Off to recess to play, come on now.

Fiona, weirded out by Flynn's attempt at flirting, runs out the door.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Fiona sits on a tire swing under a tree, slightly removed from the chaotic jungle that is the playground. She has her comic opened on her lap, and begins to peel her banana. For the first time we've seen her, Fiona looks content.

KATIE (O.S)

Fiona Everwood.

Fiona, startled looks up at LITTLE BLONDE GIRL from before (named Katie). She is standing in front of Fiona, arms crossed and ready for business. Never has someone so seemingly little and cute looked so diabolical. Kids like Katie make scorpions look obsolete.

KATIE (CON'T)

So, I saw you before, ya know, in the hallway. Who do you think you are Fiona, with your stupid glasses and boy hair!

FIONA

What?! Excuse me "princess" Katie, but what are you even talking about?

KATIE

I saw you with Flynn. We're basically in love! I don't know if anyone's told you but I'm going to marry him one day.

FIONA

Ew MARRY him? You are crazy! I don't want to marry anyone, ever. Especially not Flynn that would be gross!

(CONTINUED)

KATIE

Well good. I just wanted to make it clear who the true woman in Flynn's life is. Which, is me, by the way.

FIONA

I see. Don't worry, I don't want *anything* to do with that kid.

In the distance, but not out of earshot, we reveal FLYNN, devastated. All of his swag and confidence got kicked out of him in an instance. He storms out of the playground, and into the school.

INT HALLWAY- DAY

Flynn storms to his locker, throwing his Hulk lunchbox onto the floor, and pulls out a BIG HEART SHAPED VALENTINE.

He stares at it in his hands, it reads: "Fiona, I love you, I love you, I love you so well. If I had a peanut I'd give you the shell."

Flynn crumples the Valentine into a ball and furiously throws it onto the floor.

INT. CLASSROOM - NEXT DAY

The Valentine's day hype from yesterday seemed to have charged to a whole new level, as the VALENTINES PARTY kicks off.

Most of the kids are dressed in pinks or reds, and CLASS MOMS are present, holding trays of frosted cupcakes and cookies. Fiona, shockingly, is not dressed for the holiday.

The kids buzz around on a sugar rush, throwing candy hearts into their mouths and tearing open cards. Fiona, is the only child without a Valentine of her own. She walks over the the cupcake tray, and is approached by her teacher.

MRS. ROGAN

(winking)

Fiona, I see you are very festive this year

FIONA

I've always been more of a Halloween kind of kid.

(CONTINUED)

MRS. ROGAN

Well isn't that sweet. Why don't you follow me over to my desk, I have something for you

Curious, Fiona puts down her cupcake and follows her teacher. Mrs. Rogan reaches into her desk and grabs a crinkled HEART VALENTINE. It is the one from Flynn.

MRS. ROGAN

I found this yesterday. It's addressed to you

Hands Fiona the card. She winces. Flynn.

MRS. ROGAN (CON'T)

Sweetheart why was this card in the trash yesterday? You shouldn't throw out a card from someone, it can hurt their feelings.

FIONA

But I didn't throw anything out! I swear!

MRS. ROGAN

You *didn't* throw it out?

FIONA

No, Mrs. Rogan. I never saw this thing! I'm gonna beat him up for this one.

MRS. ROGAN

Oh Fiona, always have such a crazy imagination...Well lucky for him he's not here today.

(Beat)

I'm sorry I accused you, honey. Now go play with your classmates.

Mrs. Rogan walks away. But Fiona stands there in confusion.

FIONA

(calling after her)

Wait, what do you mean he's not here today?

CLASSMATE 1 (O.S)

I know, I can't believe that about Flynn!

(CONTINUED)

At the drop of his name, Fiona's head snaps towards a group of CLASSMATES huddled around the cupcake table GOSSIPING. Ears burning, she creeps towards them.

CLASSMATE 2

Yeah he's in the *hospital!*

(beat)

My neighbor's baby-sitter is dating this guys whose brother's mom is best friends with this lady whose son plays football with Flynn's older brother Colin and *he* said that he saw Flynn collapse at Baskin Robbins last night!

CLASSMATE 3

Yeah well *I* heard he has some killer ancient disease...like...Scarlet Fever.

CLASSMATE 4

*I* heard if he dies, they're going to rename a wing of the elementary school after him.

CLASSMATE 1

Well *I* heard if he dies Justin Beiber is performing at his funeral. So if he lives I really don't know how I'll feel.

The group walks away, but Fiona can't move. We move in on her face, stricken with fear.

In SLOW MOTION, Fiona's eyes race back and forth around the classroom...and we hear, DARK and SLOW:

FIONA'S HEAD

"Not in class today...your shirt really brings out the beauty in your eyes...saw Flynn collapse...Never give up on love, even if it kills you..."

We begin to see Fiona's THOUGHTS as they splash up onto the screen

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

TV screen, Juliet wakes up to see her beloved Romeo, dead and in her arms

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Fiona's mother sniffing and cleaning up broken plates, glass and picture frames from the floor

EXT. PARK - DAY

Fiona sitting with her Grandma on a bench, holding a book titled, "Sleeping Beauty." Fiona see's Princess Arura in her coma, she slams the book shut

EXT. PORCH - MORNING

Fiona's father running after her mother's car as she drives away for the last time

INT. CHURCH - DAY

A bride stood up at the alter violently beats her groom with a bouquet of roses

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Flynn sits at his deak, making Fiona her very own Valentine.

INT. CLASSROOM - SAME

The FLASHBACKS stop and we resume on Fiona's face at normal speed.

NARRATOR (V.O)

It was then, that Fiona realized exactly what she had just done...

FIONA

I Killed him!!

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Bell rings. Fiona SPRINTS out of school. She runs as fast as her legs will take her to the school BIKE RACK. She hurries. Every minute counts.

WE HEAR: ba bump. Ba bump. Ba bump. With every minute passing the heart beats grow faster, and faster...ba bump ba bump

Fiona jumps on her bike and races off down the street.

She peddles. And peddles, and peddles, fast as she can. She races down a suburban street. She is huffing and puffing, but there is nothing stopping her. Ba bump. Ba bump.

All of a sudden, Fiona jerks her bike to a skid outside a LARGE HOME. It is Flynn's.

She throws her helmet off and runs up to the house. As she runs a SILVER SUV is pulling out of the driveway, unaware of the girl, and starts to drive down the street.

FIONA

WAIT!!

She screams and frantically darts after the car. But she is too late.

As the car disappears into the distance, Fiona's strides slow. Defeated, she stops in the middle of the street. She has failed. She buckles over. The beating stops.

NEIGHBOR (O.S)

Little girl! Get out of the middle of the street! Didn't your mother teach you anything?

On the porch across the street sits an OLD WOMAN in a rocking chair. Fiona stares at her, sweat dripping down her face.

NEIGHBOR

(points)

That family over there, they're on their way over to the hospital! Asked me to let their dog out. Lovely little thing really.

FIONA

(welling up in tears)

Oh NO! I can't believe this! Its true...everything. He's *dying*!

(CONTINUED)

NEIGHBOR

Dying?! That would be tragic! The hospital they're going to is only a half mile up the road--

Before she can even finish Fiona throws her helmet back on and jumps on her bike again.

NEIGHBOR

(calling after her)

Dear! Its on a main road you're far too young to go by yours--oh uh okay, bye darling!

EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON

Peddling. Peddling. Faster. Faster. All we see is Fiona's face, full of sweat, fear, and determination. Ba bump, peddle, ba bump, peddle.

She pulls up to WINTHROP HOSPITAL, violently throws her bike and helmet to the ground and runs inside.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Fiona walks into the waiting room. It is cold, white, and lonely. The walls of the Hospital are littered with different kinds of hearts than the ones plastered in the classroom. They are GET WELL hearts, signed by children for resident patients. To Fiona, death couldn't look more tangible.

There are a mix of people there, from anxious families, to hospital staff, to a GROUP OF BROWNIE SCOUTS, holding heart shaped candies and cards.

She looks around, and starts to walk down the hall. But she is stopped by a NURSE, late 40s.

NURSE

Honey, you can't go past the receptionist's desk without special permission with the exclusion of visiting hours. Winthrop policy.

Just then, the Brownies walk down the hall, past them. Light bulb.

FIONA

But, uh, that's my troop! Wait up...Sally!

(CONTINUED)



With an incredulous look, the nurse lets her go. She saunters down the hall with the troop, looking over her shoulder, nurse on her radar.

Coast is clear. Fiona, again, runs down the hall. Her eyes scan the names on the doors...Cohen,Fox,Rodriguez...MITCHELL. This is it.

She swings open the door, and is met with the eyes of FLYNN, lying in bed with a BROKEN ARM, LEG, and SLING. An IV is connected to the other arm. He is broken. But not dead.

FLYNN

Fiona?! What are you doing in my hospital room?

FIONA

FLYNN!! You're alive!!

She runs over and hugs the boy. He winces in pain.

FLYNN

Of course I am! Who said I was dead?

FIONA

I saw your Valentine today and then you weren't in school so I just thought--

FLYNN

You saw my card? I didn't mean for you to. I know you don't like me. I was going to leave you alone, that's why I threw it out.

FIONA

Exactly Flynn I just thought that...I was the reason you were in the hospital. I hurt you.

FLYNN

You hurt my *feelings* Fiona. This..

He tries to move his broken limbs with no avail.

FLYNN (CONT)

..was not your fault.

FIONA

But,if it wasn't me...what happened?

(CONTINUED)

FLYNN

I jumped off the monkey bars, I  
didn't land well

FIONA

What?! Why would you do something  
crazy like that?

FLYNN

I wanted to fly, like superman.

FIONA

Thats so dumb! I thought we both  
agreed...no one beats the  
Incredible Hulk.

FLYNN

Yeah, but green paint isn't as  
washable as you'd think...ask my  
mom.

FIONA

Its okay, I never did like arts and  
crafts much anyhow.

For a moment, Fiona is completely taken in by Flynn. They  
begin to laugh.

NARRATOR (V.O)

Fiona Everwood was a girl who did  
not believe in Valentine's day. She  
did not believe in true love.

Fiona moves closer to him...

NARRATOR (V.O)

But, for the first time in her  
life, she did not fear getting her  
heart broken.

The two lock eyes. Its like Fiona has seen Heaven for the  
first time.

NARRATOR (V.O)

Speaking of firsts...

Flynn and Fiona, sweet and innocently, kiss on the lips,  
ever so quickly. They pull away slowly, as if both of their  
worlds have been magically changed forever.

NARRATOR (V.O)

And to Fiona's biggest surprise and  
delight, neither of them died.